



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
July 25, 2006

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### **Governor Hoeven Proclaims *Cancer Awareness Week*** ***North Dakotans Encouraged To Take Appropriate Steps To Protect Themselves***

BISMARCK, N.D. – Governor John Hoeven has proclaimed July 24 through 28, 2006, as *Cancer Awareness Week* in North Dakota.

“Unfortunately, many North Dakotans have friends and loved ones who have been diagnosed with cancer,” Hoeven said. “It’s important that we all take steps to protect ourselves, including getting regular preventive cancer screenings and making healthy lifestyle choices.”

Three out of four American families will have at least one family member diagnosed with cancer in his or her lifetime. For North Dakotans, cancer is the second leading cause of death after heart disease. Every year, more than 3,100 North Dakotas are diagnosed with cancer, and nearly 1,300 die from the disease. Through increased use of screening and detection and healthier lifestyles, however, much cancer is preventable.

Since 2005, the North Dakota Cancer Coalition – a group of professionals, stakeholders, cancer survivors, and interested others from across North Dakota – have participated in work groups to develop a proactive, comprehensive approach for addressing cancer care in the state. On July 27, 2006, Cancer Coalition members will hold a summit at the Seven Seas Conference Center in Mandan, N.D., to present the first comprehensive North Dakota Cancer Plan, discuss the goals and strategies, and lay the groundwork for implementation of the plan.

“It is time to step up, to become educated and to educate others about what we can do to make a difference,” said Denise Steinbach, North Dakota Comprehensive Cancer Control Program coordinator. “The North Dakota Cancer Plan addresses ways we can fight cancer and help all of us live longer and healthier lives.”

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For more information about *Cancer Awareness Week* or to participate in the Summit, contact Denise Steinbach at 701.328.2596 or [dsteinb@nd.gov](mailto:dsteinb@nd.gov).

Proclamation  
**CANCER AWARENESS WEEK**  
July 24-28, 2006

**WHEREAS**, cancer is the second leading cause of death in North Dakota; and

**WHEREAS**, about 3,100 North Dakotans will be diagnosed with cancer this year; and

**WHEREAS**, about 22,000 North Dakotans are cancer survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to continue the fight against cancer and to reduce the risk of this disease among our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 27, 2006, the North Dakota Cancer Coalition will unveil the state's cancer plan, which outlines strategies to help lessen the burden of cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, all North Dakotans are encouraged to take appropriate steps to protect themselves, including getting regular preventive cancer screenings and making healthy lifestyle choices.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim July 24-28, 2006, **CANCER AWARENESS WEEK** in the state of North Dakota.

John Hoeven  
Governor

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